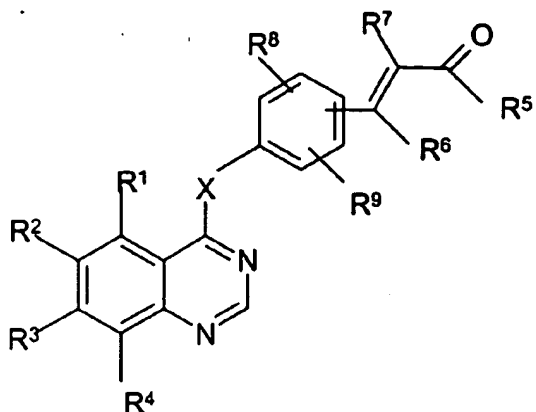


IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A compound of formula (I)



(I)

or a salt, ester, or amide thereof;

where X is O, or S, S(O) or S(O)₂ or NR¹⁰ where R¹⁰ is hydrogen or C₁₋₆alkyl;

R⁵ is a group OR¹¹, NR¹²R¹³ or SR¹¹ where R¹¹, R¹² and R¹³ are independently selected from hydrogen, optionally substituted hydrocarbyl or optionally substituted heterocyclic groups, and R¹² and R¹³ may additionally form together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, an optionally substituted aromatic or non-aromatic heterocyclic ring which may contain further heteroatoms,

R⁶ and R⁷ are independently selected from hydrogen or hydrocarbyl;

R⁸ and R⁹ are independently selected from hydrogen, halo, C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄alkoxy, C₁₋₄alkoxymethyl, di(C₁₋₄alkoxy)methyl, C₁₋₄alkanoyl, trifluoromethyl, cyano, amino, C₂₋₅alkenyl, C₂₋₅alkynyl, a phenyl group, a benzyl group or a 5-6-membered heterocyclic group with 1-3 heteroatoms, selected independently from O, S and N, which heterocyclic group may be aromatic or non-aromatic and may be saturated, [[[]]] linked via a ring carbon or nitrogen atom, [] or unsaturated, [[[]]] linked via a ring carbon atom, []], and which phenyl, benzyl or heterocyclic group may bear on one or more ring carbon atoms up to 5 substituents selected from hydroxy, halogeno, C₁₋₃alkyl, C₁₋₃alkoxy, C₁₋₃alkanoyloxy, trifluoromethyl, cyano, amino, nitro, C₂₋₄alkanoyl, C₁₋₄alkanoylamino,

C₁₋₄alkoxycarbonyl, C₁₋₄alkylsulphanyl, C₁₋₄alkylsulphinyl, C₁₋₄alkylsulphonyl, carbamoyl, N-C₁₋₄alkylcarbamoyl, N,N-di(C₁₋₄alkyl)carbamoyl, aminosulphonyl, N-C₁₋₄alkylaminosulphonyl, N,N-di(C₁₋₄alkyl)aminosulphonyl, C₁₋₄alkylsulphonylamino, and a saturated heterocyclic group selected from morpholino, thiomorpholino, pyrrolidinyl, piperazinyl, piperidinyl, imidazolidinyl and pyrazolidinyl, which saturated heterocyclic group may bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from oxo, hydroxy, halogeno, C₁₋₃alkyl, C₁₋₃alkoxy, C₁₋₃alkanoyloxy, trifluoromethyl, cyano, amino, nitro and C₁₋₄alkoxycarbonyl, and R¹, R², R³, R⁴ are independently selected from halogeno, cyano, nitro, C₁₋₃alkylsulphanyl, -N(OH)R¹⁴, [[\square]] wherein R¹⁴ is hydrogen, or C₁₋₃alkyl, [[\square]], or R¹⁶X¹ - wherein X¹ represents a direct bond, -O-, -CH₂-, -OC(O)-, -C(O)-, -S-, -SO-, -SO₂-, -NR¹⁷C(O)-, -C(O)NR¹⁸-, -SO₂NR¹⁹-, -NR²⁰SO₂- or -NR²¹-, [[\square]] wherein R¹⁷, R¹⁸, R¹⁹, R²⁰ and R²¹ each independently represents hydrogen, C₁₋₃alkyl or C₁₋₃alkoxyC₂₋₃alkyl, [[\square]], and R¹⁶ is hydrogen, optionally substituted hydrocarbyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl or optionally substituted alkoxy.

2. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein at least one group R¹, R², R³, R⁴ is a group R¹⁶X¹ - and R¹⁶ is hydrogen, an optionally substituted hydrocarbyl group selected from alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, aralkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl or cycloalkynyl, or combinations thereof; or an optionally substituted heterocyclyl group of from 4 to 20 ring atoms, and where the optional substituents comprise at least one functional group selected from nitro, cyano, halo, oxo, =CR⁷⁸R⁷⁹, C(O)_xR⁷⁷, OR⁷⁷, S(O)_yR⁷⁷, NR⁷⁸R⁷⁹, C(O)NR⁷⁸R⁷⁹, OC(O)NR⁷⁸R⁷⁹, =NOR⁷⁷, -NR⁷⁷C(O)_xR⁷⁸, -NR⁷⁷CONR⁷⁸R⁷⁹, -N=CR⁷⁸R⁷⁹, S(O)_yNR⁷⁸R⁷⁹ or -NR⁷⁷S(O)_yR⁷⁸ where R⁷⁷, R⁷⁸ and R⁷⁹ are independently selected from hydrogen, optionally substituted hydrocarbyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl or optionally substituted alkoxy, or R⁷⁸ and R⁷⁹ together form an optionally substituted ring which optionally contains further heteroatoms, where x is an integer of 1 or 2, y is 0 or an integer of 1-3.

3. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 2 where hydrocarbyl, heterocyclyl or alkoxy groups R⁷⁷, R⁷⁸ and R⁷⁹ as well as rings formed by R⁷⁸ and R⁷⁹ are optionally substituted by halo, perhaloalkyl, mercapto, alkylthio, hydroxy, carboxy, alkoxy, heteroaryl,

heteroaryloxy, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, cycloalkynyl, alkenyloxy, alkynyloxy, alkoxyalkoxy, aryloxy (~~where the aryl group may be substituted by halo, nitro, or hydroxy~~), cyano, nitro, amino, mono- or di-alkyl amino, oximino or $S(O)_yR^{90}$, where the aryl group may be substituted by halo, nitro, or hydroxy and where y is as defined in claim 2 and R^{90} is a alkyl.

4. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 2 wherein at least one group R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 is a group $R^{16}X^1$ - and R^{16} is hydrogen or an alkyl group, optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from functional groups as defined in claim 2, or alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, heterocyclyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl or cycloalkynyl, any of which may be substituted with a functional group as defined in claim 2, and where any aryl, heterocyclyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, cycloalkynyl groups may also be optionally substituted with hydrocarbyl.

5. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1 wherein at least one of R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 is a group $R^{16}X^1$ - where X^1 is as defined in claim 1 and R^{16} is selected from one of the following twenty-two groups:

- 1) hydrogen or C_{1-5} alkyl which may be unsubstituted or which may be substituted with one or more functional groups;
- 2) $-R^aX^2C(O)R^{22}$; $[[()]]$ wherein X^2 represents -O- or $-NR^{23}$ -, $[[()]]$ in which R^{23} represents hydrogen $[[,]]$ or alkyl optionally substituted with a functional group, $[[()]]$ and R^{22} represents C_{1-3} alkyl, $-NR^{24}R^{25}$ or $-OR^{26}$ -, $[[()]]$ wherein R^{24} , R^{25} and R^{26} which may be the same or different each represents hydrogen $[[,]]$ or alkyl optionally substituted with a functional group $[[()]]$;
- 3) $-R^bX^3R^{27}$; $[[()]]$ wherein X^3 represents -O-, $-C(O)$ -, -S-, $-SO$ -, $-SO_2$ -, $-OC(O)$ -, $-NR^{28}C(O)$ -, $-NR^{28}C(O)O$ -, $-C(O)NR^{29}$ -, $-C(O)ONR^{29}$ -, $-SO_2NR^{30}$ -, $-NR^{31}SO_2$ - or $-NR^{32}$ -, $[[()]]$ wherein R^{28} , R^{29} , R^{30} , R^{31} and R^{32} each independently represents hydrogen $[[,]]$ or alkyl optionally substituted with a functional group, $[[()]]$ and R^{27} represents hydrogen, hydrocarbyl or a saturated heterocyclic group, wherein the hydrocarbyl or heterocyclic groups may be optionally substituted by one or more functional groups and the heterocyclic groups may additionally be substituted by a hydrocarbyl group $[[()]]$;
- 4) $-R^cX^4R^cX^5R^{35}$; $[[()]]$ wherein X^4 and X^5 which may be the same or different are each -O-, $-C(O)$ -, -S-, $-SO$ -, $-SO_2$ -, $-OC(O)$ -, $-NR^{36}C(O)$ -, $-NR^{36}C(O)O$ -, $-C(O)NR^{37}$ -,

- C(O)ONR³⁷-, -SO₂NR³⁸-, -NR³⁹SO₂- or -NR⁴⁰-, [[(]]wherein R³⁶, R³⁷, R³⁸, R³⁹ and R⁴⁰ each independently represents hydrogen or alkyl optionally substituted by a functional group, [(]] and R³⁵ represents hydrogen[(,)] or alkyl optionally substituted by a functional group[(]]];
- 5) R⁴¹; wherein R⁴¹ is a C₁₋₆ cycloalkyl or saturated heterocyclic ring [[(]]linked via carbon or nitrogen[(]]], which cycloalkyl or heterocyclic group may be substituted by one or more functional groups or by a hydrocarbonyl or heterocyclyl group which hydrocarbonyl or heterocyclyl group may be optionally substituted by one or more functional groups;
- 6) -R^dR⁴¹; [[(]]wherein R⁴¹ is as defined hereinbefore[(]]];
- 7) -R^eR⁴¹; [[(]]wherein R⁴¹ is as defined hereinbefore[(]]];
- 8) -R^fR⁴¹; [[(]]wherein R⁴¹ is as defined hereinbefore[(]]];
- 9) R⁴²; wherein R⁴² represents an aryl group or an aromatic heterocyclic group [[(]]linked via carbon or nitrogen[(]]] with 1-3 heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, which aryl or aromatic heterocyclic group may be substituted by one or more functional groups or by a hydrocarbonyl group optionally substituted by one or more functional groups or heterocyclyl groups, or by a heterocyclyl group optionally ~~substituted~~ substituted by one or more functional groups or hydrocarbonyl groups;
- 10) -R^gR⁴² (wherein R⁴² is as defined hereinbefore);
- 11) -R^hR⁴² (wherein R⁴² is as defined hereinbefore);
- 12) -RⁱR⁴² (wherein R⁴² is as defined hereinbefore);
- 13) -R^jX⁶R⁴² (wherein X⁶ represents -O-, -S-, -SO-, -SO₂-, -OC(O)-, -NR⁴⁷C(O)-, -C(O)NR⁴⁸-, -C(O)ONR⁴⁸-, -SO₂NR⁴⁹-, -NR⁵⁰SO₂- or -NR⁵¹- (wherein R⁴⁷, R⁴⁸, R⁴⁹, R⁵⁰ and R⁵¹ each independently represents hydrogen, or alkyl optionally substituted with a functional group) and R⁴² is as defined hereinbefore);
- 14) -R^kX⁷R⁴²; [[(]]wherein X⁷ represents -O-, -C(O)-, -S-, -SO-, -SO₂-, -OC(O)-, -NR⁵²C(O)-, -C(O)NR⁵³-, C(O)ONR⁵³-, -SO₂NR⁵⁴-, -NR⁵⁵SO₂- or -NR⁵⁶-, [[(]]wherein R⁵², R⁵³, R⁵⁴, R⁵⁵ and R⁵⁶ each independently represents hydrogen[(,)] or alkyl optionally substituted with a functional group, [(]] and R⁴² is as defined hereinbefore[(]]];
- 15) -R^mX⁸R⁴²; [[(]]wherein X⁸ represents -O-, -C(O)-, -S-, -SO-, -SO₂-, -OC(O)-, -NR⁵⁷C(O)-, -C(O)NR⁵⁸-, -C(O)ONR⁵⁸-, -SO₂NR⁵⁹-, -NR⁶⁰SO₂- or -NR⁶¹-, [[(]]wherein R⁵⁷, R⁵⁸, R⁵⁹, R⁶⁰ and R⁶¹ each independently represents hydrogen, hydrogen, or alkyl

optionally substituted with a functional group, [()] and R^{42} is as defined

hereinbefore[()];

16) $-R^n X^9 R^n R^{42}$; [()] wherein X^9 represents -O-, -C(O)-, -S-, -SO-, -SO₂-, -OC(O)-, -NR⁶²C(O)-, -C(O)NR⁶³-, -C(O)ONR⁶³-, -SO₂NR⁶⁴-, -NR⁶⁵SO₂- or -NR⁶⁶-, [()] wherein R^{62} , R^{63} , R^{64} , R^{65} and R^{66} each independently represents hydrogen, ~~hydrogen~~, or alkyl optionally substituted with a functional group, [()] and R^{42} is as defined hereinbefore[()];

17) $-R^p X^9 -R^{p'} R^{41}$; [()] wherein X^9 and R^{41} are as defined hereinbefore[()];

18) C₂₋₃alkenyl which may be unsubstituted or which may be substituted with one or more functional groups;

19) C₂₋₃alkynyl which may be unsubstituted or which may be substituted with one or more functional groups;

20) $-R^t X^9 R^t R^{41}$; [()] wherein X^9 and R^{41} are as defined hereinbefore[()];

21) $-R^u X^9 R^u R^{41}$; [()] wherein X^9 and R^{41} are as defined hereinbefore[()]; and

22) $-R^v R^{67} (R^v)_q (X^9)_r R^{68}$; [()] wherein X^9 is as defined hereinbefore, q is 0 or 1, r is 0 or 1, and R^{67} is a C₁₋₃alkylene group or a cyclic group selected from divalent cycloalkyl or heterocyclic group, which C₁₋₃alkylene group may be substituted by one or more functional groups and which cyclic group may be substituted by one or more functional groups or by a hydrocarbyl group optionally substituted by one or more functional groups or heterocyclyl groups, or by a heterocyclyl group optionally ~~substituted~~ substituted by one or more functional groups or hydrocarbyl groups; and R^{68} is hydrogen, C₁₋₃alkyl, or a cyclic group selected from cycloalkyl or heterocyclic group, which C₁₋₃alkylene group may be substituted by one or more functional groups and which cyclic group may be substituted by one or more may be substituted by one or more functional groups or by a hydrocarbyl group optionally substituted by one or more functional groups or heterocyclyl groups, or by a heterocyclyl group optionally substituted by one or more functional groups or hydrocarbyl groups[()];

and wherein R^a , R^b , R^c , R^d , R^e , R^f , R^g , R^h , R^i , R^j , R^k , R^l , R^m , R^n , R^o , R^p , R^q , R^r , R^s , R^t , R^u , R^v and R^w are independently selected from C₁₋₈alkylene groups optionally ~~substituted~~ substituted by one or more functional groups,

R^e , R^h , R^k and R^l are independently selected from C_{2-8} alkenylene groups optionally substituted by one or more functional groups, and
 R^f , R^i , R^m and R^u are independently selected from C_{2-8} alkynylene groups optionally substituted by one or more functional groups.

6. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R^{16} is selected from one of the following twenty-two groups:

- 1) hydrogen or C_{1-5} alkyl which may be unsubstituted or which may be substituted with one or more groups selected from hydroxy, oxiranyl, fluoro, chloro, bromo, amino, C_{1-3} alkyl, and trifluoromethyl;
- 2) $-R^aX^2C(O)R^{22}$; $[[()]]$ wherein X^2 represents -O- or $-NR^{23}$ -, $[[()]]$ in which R^{23} represents hydrogen, C_{1-3} alkyl or C_{1-3} alkoxy C_{2-3} alkyl) and R^{22} represents C_{1-3} alkyl, $-NR^{24}R^{25}$ or $-OR^{26}$, $[[()]]$ wherein R^{24} , R^{25} and R^{26} which may be the same or different each represents hydrogen, C_{1-5} alkyl, hydroxy C_{1-5} alkyl or C_{1-3} alkoxy C_{2-3} alkyl $[[()]]$];
- 3) $-R^bX^3R^{27}$; $[[()]]$ wherein X^3 represents -O-, $C(O)$ -S-, -SO-, -SO₂-, -OC(O)-, $-NR^{28}C(O)$ -, $-NR^{28}C(O)O$ -, $-C(O)NR^{29}$ -, $C(O)ONR^{29}$ -, -SO₂NR³⁰-, -NR³¹SO₂- or $-NR^{32}$ -, $[[()]]$ wherein R^{28} , R^{29} , R^{30} , R^{31} and R^{32} each independently represents hydrogen, C_{1-3} alkyl, hydroxy C_{1-4} alkyl or C_{1-3} alkoxy C_{2-3} alkyl, $[[()]]$ and R^{27} represents hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, phenyl or a 5-6-membered saturated heterocyclic group with 1-2 heteroatoms, selected independently from O, S and N, which C_{1-6} alkyl group may bear 1, 2 or 3 substituents selected from oxo, hydroxy, halogeno, cyclopropyl, amino, C_{1-4} alkylamino, C_{1-4} alkanoyldi- C_{1-4} alkylamino, C_{1-4} alkylthio, C_{1-4} alkoxy and which cyclic group may bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from oxo, hydroxy, halogeno, cyano, C_{1-4} cyanoalkyl, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} hydroxyalkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} alkoxy C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkylsulphonyl C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-4} aminoalkyl, C_{1-4} alkylamino, di(C_{1-4} alkyl)amino, C_{1-4} alkylamino C_{1-4} alkyl, di(C_{1-4} alkyl)amino C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkylamino C_{1-4} alkoxy, di(C_{1-4} alkyl)amino C_{1-4} alkoxy and a group $-(-O-)_f(R^{b'})_gD$, $[[()]]$ wherein f is 0 or 1, g is 0 or 1 and D is a cyclic group selected from C_{3-6} cycloalkyl group, an aryl group or a 5-6-membered saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic group with 1-2 heteroatoms, selected independently from O, S and N, which cyclic group may bear one or more substituents selected from halo or C_{1-4} alkyl $[[()]]$];

- 4) $-R^cX^4R^{c'}X^5R^{35}$; $[[()]]$ wherein X^4 and X^5 which may be the same or different are each $-O-$, $C(O)-$, $-S-$, $-SO-$, $-SO_2-$, $-NR^{36}C(O)-$, $-NR^{36}C(O)O-$, $-C(O)NR^{37}-$, $-C(O)ONR^{37}-$, $-SO_2NR^{38}-$, $-NR^{39}SO_2-$ or $-NR^{40}-$; $[[()]]$ wherein R^{36} , R^{37} , R^{38} , R^{39} and R^{40} each independently represents hydrogen, C_{1-3} alkyl or C_{1-3} alkoxy C_{2-3} alkyl, $[[()]]$ and R^{35} represents hydrogen, C_{1-3} alkyl, hydroxy C_{1-3} alkyl or C_{1-3} alkoxy C_{2-3} alkyl, $[[()]]$;
- 5) R^{41} ; $[[()]]$ wherein R^{41} is a 4-6-membered cycloalkyl or saturated heterocyclic ring, $[[()]]$ linked via carbon or nitrogen, $[[()]]$ with 1-2 heteroatoms, selected independently from O, S and N, which cycloalkyl or heterocyclic group may bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from oxo, hydroxy, halogeno, cyano, C_{1-4} alkyl, hydroxy C_{1-4} alkyl, cyano C_{1-4} alkyl, cyclopropyl, C_{1-4} alkylsulphonyl C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxycarbonyl, carboxamido, C_{1-4} aminoalkyl, C_{1-4} alkylamino, di(C_{1-4} alkyl)amino, C_{1-4} alkylamino C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkanoyl, di(C_{1-4} alkyl)amino C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkylamino C_{1-4} alkoxy, di(C_{1-4} alkyl)amino C_{1-4} alkoxy nitro, amino, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} hydroxyalkoxy, carboxy, trifluoromethyl, $-C(O)NR^{43}R^{44}$, $-NR^{45}C(O)R^{46}$, $[[()]]$ wherein R^{43} , R^{44} , R^{45} and R^{46} , which may be the same or different, each represents hydrogen, C_{1-4} alkyl, hydroxy C_{1-4} alkyl or C_{1-3} alkoxy C_{2-3} alkyl) and a group $-(O-)(C_{1-4}alkyl)_g$ ringD, $[[()]]$ wherein f is 0 or 1, g is 0 or 1 and D is a cyclic group selected from C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, aryl or 5-6-membered saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic group with 1-2 heteroatoms, selected independently from O, S and N, which cyclic group may bear one or more substituents selected from halo and C_{1-4} alkyl, $[[()]]$;
- 6) $-R^dR^{41}$; $[[()]]$ wherein R^{41} is as defined hereinbefore, $[[()]]$;
- 7) $-R^eR^{41}$; $[[()]]$ wherein R^{41} is as defined hereinbefore, $[[()]]$;
- 8) $-R^fR^{41}$; $[[()]]$ wherein R^{41} is as defined hereinbefore, $[[()]]$;
- 9) R^{42} ; wherein R^{42} represents a phenyl group or a 5-6-membered aromatic heterocyclic group, $[[()]]$ linked via carbon or nitrogen, $[[()]]$ with 1-3 heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, which phenyl or aromatic heterocyclic group may carry up to 5 substituents selected from hydroxy, nitro, halogeno, amino, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} hydroxyalkyl, C_{1-4} aminoalkyl, C_{1-4} alkylamino, C_{1-4} hydroxyalkoxy, oxo, cyano C_{1-4} alkyl, cyclopropyl, C_{1-4} alkylsulphonyl C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxycarbonyl, di(C_{1-4} alkyl)amino, C_{1-4} alkylamino C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkanoyl, di(C_{1-4} alkyl)amino C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkylamino C_{1-4} alkoxy, di(C_{1-4} alkyl)amino C_{1-4} alkoxy, carboxy, carboxamido,

trifluoromethyl, cyano, $-C(O)NR^{69}R^{70}$, $-NR^{71}C(O)R^{72}$, $[[()]]$ wherein R^{69} , R^{70} , R^{71} and R^{72} , which may be the same or different, each represents hydrogen, C_{1-4} alkyl, hydroxy C_{1-4} alkyl or C_{1-3} alkoxy C_{2-3} alkyl, $[[()]]$ and a group $-(O-)_f(C_{1-4}alkyl)_g$ ringD, $[[()]]$ wherein f is 0 or 1, g is 0 or 1 and ring D is a cyclic group selected from C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, aryl or 5-6-membered saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic group with 1-2 heteroatoms, selected independently from O, S and N, which cyclic group may bear one or more substituents selected from halo and C_{1-4} alkyl $[[()]]$;

10) $-R^8R^{42}$; $[[()]]$ wherein R^{42} is as defined hereinbefore $[[()]]$;

11) $-R^hR^{42}$; $[[()]]$ wherein R^{42} is as defined hereinbefore $[[()]]$;

12) $-R^iR^{42}$; $[[()]]$ wherein R^{42} is as defined hereinbefore $[[()]]$;

13) $-R^jX^6R^{42}$; $[[()]]$ wherein X^6 represents $-O-$, $-C(O)-$, $-S-$, $-SO-$, $-SO_2-$, $-OC(O)-$, $-NR^{47}C(O)-$, $-C(O)NR^{48}$, $C(O)ONR^{48}$, $-SO_2NR^{49}$, $-NR^{50}SO_2-$ or $-NR^{51}$, $[[()]]$ wherein R^{47} , R^{48} , R^{49} , R^{50} and R^{51} each independently represents hydrogen, C_{1-3} alkyl, hydroxy C_{1-3} alkyl or C_{1-3} alkoxy C_{2-3} alkyl, $[[()]]$ and R^{42} is as defined hereinbefore $[[()]]$;

14) $-R^kX^7R^{42}$; $[[()]]$ wherein X^7 represents $-O-$, $C(O)-$, $-S-$, $-SO-$, $-SO_2-$, $-NR^{73}C(O)-$, $-C(O)NR^{74}$, $C(O)ONR^{74}$, $-SO_2NR^{75}$, $-NR^{76}SO_2-$ or $-NR^{77}$, $[[()]]$ wherein R^{73} , R^{74} , R^{75} , R^{76} and R^{77} each independently represents hydrogen, C_{1-3} alkyl, hydroxy C_{1-3} alkyl or C_{1-3} alkoxy C_{2-3} alkyl, $[[()]]$ and R^{42} is as defined hereinbefore $[[()]]$;

15) $-R^mX^8R^{42}$; $[[()]]$ wherein X^8 represents $-O-$, $-C(O)-$, $-S-$, $-SO-$, $-SO_2-$, $-NR^{57}C(O)-$, $-C(O)NR^{58}$, $-SO_2NR^{59}$, $-NR^{60}SO_2-$ or $-NR^{61}$, $[[()]]$ wherein R^{57} , R^{58} , R^{59} , R^{60} and R^{61} each independently represents hydrogen, C_{1-3} alkyl, hydroxy C_{1-3} alkyl or C_{1-3} alkoxy C_{2-3} alkyl, $[[()]]$ and R^{42} is as defined hereinbefore $[[()]]$;

16) $-R^nX^9R^{42}$; $[[()]]$ wherein X^9 represents $-O-$, $-C(O)-$, $-S-$, $-SO-$, $-SO_2-$, $-NR^{62}C(O)-$, $-C(O)NR^{63}$, $C(O)ONR^{63}$, $-SO_2NR^{64}$, $-NR^{65}SO_2-$ or $-NR^{66}$, $[[()]]$ wherein R^{62} , R^{63} , R^{64} , R^{65} and R^{66} each independently represents hydrogen, C_{1-3} alkyl, hydroxy C_{1-3} alkyl or C_{1-3} alkoxy C_{2-3} alkyl, $[[()]]$ and R^{42} is as defined hereinbefore $[[()]]$;

17) $-R^pX^9-R^{p'}R^{41}$; $[[()]]$ wherein X^9 and R^{41} are as defined hereinbefore $[[()]]$;

18) C_{2-3} alkenyl which may be unsubstituted or which may be substituted with one or more groups selected from hydroxy, fluoro, amino, C_{1-4} alkylamino, N,N-di(C_{1-4} alkyl)amino, aminosulphonyl, N- C_{1-4} alkylaminosulphonyl and N,N-di(C_{1-4} alkyl)aminosulphonyl;

19) C₂₋₃alkynyl which may be unsubstituted or which may be substituted with one or more groups selected from hydroxy, fluoro, amino, C₁₋₄alkylamino, N,N-di(C₁₋₄alkyl)amino, aminosulphonyl, N-C₁₋₄alkylaminosulphonyl and N,N-di(C₁₋₄alkyl)aminosulphonyl;

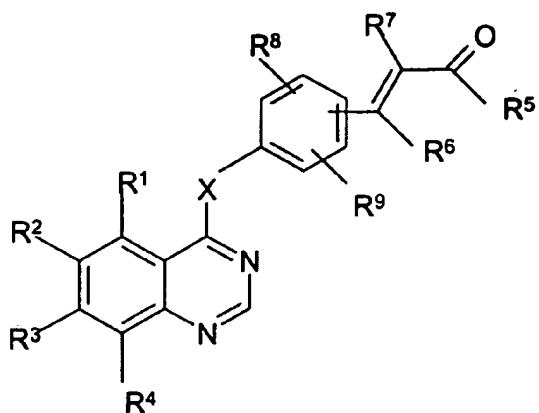
20) -R¹X⁹R¹R⁴¹; [[()]]wherein X⁹ and R⁴¹ are as defined hereinbefore[()];

21) -R^uX⁹R^uR⁴¹; [[()]]wherein X⁹ and R⁴¹ are as defined hereinbefore[()]; and

22) -R^vR⁶⁷(R^v)_q(X⁹)_rR⁶⁸; [[()]]wherein X⁹ is as defined hereinbefore, q is 0 or 1, r is 0 or 1, and R⁶⁷ is a C₁₋₃alkylene group or a cyclic group selected from cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentylene, cyclohexylene or a 5-6-membered saturated heterocyclic group with 1-2 heteroatoms, selected independently from O, S and N, which C₁₋₃alkylene group may bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from oxo, hydroxy, halogeno and C₁₋₄alkoxy and which cyclic group may bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from oxo, hydroxy, halogeno, cyano, C₁₋₄cyanoalkyl, C₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄hydroxyalkyl, C₁₋₄alkoxy, C₁₋₄alkoxyC₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄alkylsulphonylC₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄alkoxycarbonyl, C₁₋₄aminoalkyl, C₁₋₄alkylamino, di(C₁₋₄alkyl)amino, C₁₋₄alkylaminoC₁₋₄alkyl, di(C₁₋₄alkyl)aminoC₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄alkylaminoC₁₋₄alkoxy, di(C₁₋₄alkyl)aminoC₁₋₄alkoxy and a group -(O)-(C₁₋₄alkyl)_gringD, [[()]]wherein f is 0 or 1, g is 0 or 1 and ring D is a cyclic group selected from C₃₋₆cycloalkyl, aryl or 5-6-membered saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic group with 1-2 heteroatoms, selected independently from O, S and N, which cyclic group may bear one or more substituents selected from halo and C₁₋₄alkyl[()]; and R⁶⁸ is hydrogen, C₁₋₃alkyl, or a cyclic group selected from cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl and a 5-6-membered saturated heterocyclic group with 1-2 heteroatoms, selected independently from O, S and N, which C₁₋₃alkyl group may bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from oxo, hydroxy, halogeno, C₁₋₄alkoxy and which cyclic group may bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from oxo, hydroxy, halogeno, cyano, C₁₋₄cyanoalkyl, C₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄hydroxyalkyl, C₁₋₄alkoxy, C₁₋₄alkoxyC₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄alkylsulphonylC₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄alkoxycarbonyl, C₁₋₄aminoalkyl, C₁₋₄alkylamino, di(C₁₋₄alkyl)amino, C₁₋₄alkylaminoC₁₋₄alkyl, di(C₁₋₄alkyl)aminoC₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄alkylaminoC₁₋₄alkoxy, di(C₁₋₄alkyl)aminoC₁₋₄alkoxy and a group -(O)-(C₁₋₄alkyl)_gringD, [[()]]wherein f is 0 or 1, g is 0 or 1 and ring D is a cyclic group selected from C₃₋₆cycloalkyl, aryl or 5-6-membered saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic

group with 1-2 heteroatoms, selected independently from O, S and N, which cyclic group may bear one or more substituents selected from halo and C₁₋₄alkyl[[]]; and wherein R^a, R^b, R^{b'}, R^c, R^{c'}, R^d, R^e, R^j, Rⁿ, R^{n'}, R^p, R^{p'}, R^r, R^u, R^v and R^{v'} are independently selected from C₁₋₈alkylene groups optionally ~~substituted~~ substituted by one or more substituents selected from hydroxy, halogeno, amino, R^e, R^h, R^k and R^t are independently selected from C₂₋₈alkenylene groups optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from hydroxy, halogeno, amino, and Rⁱ may additionally be a bond; and R^f, Rⁱ, R^m and R^u are independently selected from C₂₋₈alkynylene groups optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from hydroxy, halogeno, amino.

7. (currently amended) A compound of formula (IA)



(IA)

or a salt, ester or amide thereof;

where X is O, or S, S(O) or S(O)₂, NH or NR¹⁰ where R¹⁰ is hydrogen or C₁₋₆alkyl; R⁵ is a group OR¹¹, NR¹²R¹³ or SR¹¹ where R¹¹, R¹² and R¹³ are independently selected from hydrogen, optionally substituted hydrocarbyl or optionally substituted heterocyclic groups, and R¹² and R¹³ may additionally form together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, an aromatic or non-aromatic heterocyclic ring which may contain further heteroatoms,

R⁸ and R⁹ are independently selected from hydrogen, halo, C₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄alkoxy, C₁₋₄alkoxymethyl, di(C₁₋₄alkoxy)methyl, C₁₋₄alkanoyl, trifluoromethyl, cyano, amino, C₂₋₅alkenyl, C₂₋₅alkynyl, a phenyl group, a benzyl group or a 5-6-membered heterocyclic

group with 1-3 heteroatoms, selected independently from O, S and N, which heterocyclic group may be aromatic or non-aromatic and may be saturated, $[[()]]$ linked via a ring carbon or nitrogen atom, $[(())]$ or unsaturated, $[[()]]$ linked via a ring carbon atom $[(())]$, and which phenyl, benzyl or heterocyclic group may bear on one or more ring carbon atoms up to 5 substituents selected from hydroxy, halogeno, C_{1-3} alkyl, C_{1-3} alkoxy, C_{1-3} alkanoyloxy, trifluoromethyl, cyano, amino, nitro, C_{2-4} alkanoyl, C_{1-4} alkanoylamino, C_{1-4} alkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-4} alkylsulphanyl, C_{1-4} alkylsulphinyl, C_{1-4} alkylsulphonyl, carbamoyl, N - C_{1-4} alkylcarbamoyl, N,N -di(C_{1-4} alkyl)carbamoyl, aminosulphonyl, N - C_{1-4} alkylaminosulphonyl, N,N -di(C_{1-4} alkyl)aminosulphonyl, C_{1-4} alkylsulphonylamino, and a saturated heterocyclic group selected from morpholino, thiomorpholino, pyrrolidinyl, piperazinyl, piperidinyl, imidazolidinyl and pyrazolidinyl, which saturated heterocyclic group may bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from oxo, hydroxy, halogeno, C_{1-3} alkyl, C_{1-3} alkoxy, C_{1-3} alkanoyloxy, trifluoromethyl, cyano, amino, nitro and C_{1-4} alkoxycarbonyl, and R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4 are independently selected from, halo, cyano, nitro, trifluoromethyl, C_{1-3} alkyl, $-NR^{14}R^{15}$, $[[()]]$ wherein R^{14} and R^{15} , which may be the same or different, each represents hydrogen or C_{1-3} alkyl $[(())]$, or $-X^1R^{16}$, $[[()]]$ wherein X^1 represents a direct bond, $-O-$, $-CH_2-$, $-OCO-$, carbonyl, $-S-$, $-SO-$, $-SO_2-$, $-NR^{17}CO-$, $-CONR^{18}-$, $-SO_2NR^{19}-$, $-NR^{20}SO_2-$ or $-NR^{21}-$, $[[()]]$ wherein $R^{17}, R^{18}, R^{19}, R^{20}$ and R^{21} each independently represents hydrogen, C_{1-3} alkyl or C_{1-3} alkoxy C_{2-3} alkyl $[(())]$, R^{16} is selected from one of the following seventeen groups:

- 1') hydrogen or C_{1-5} alkyl which may be unsubstituted or which may be substituted with one or more groups selected from hydroxy, fluoro or amino,
- 2') C_{1-3} alkyl X^2COR^{22} , $[[()]]$ wherein X^2 represents $-O-$ or $-NR^{23}-$, $[[()]]$ in which R^{23} represents hydrogen, C_{1-3} alkyl or C_{1-3} alkoxy C_{2-3} alkyl, $[(())]$ and R^{22} represents C_{1-3} alkyl, $-NR^{24}R^{25}$ or $-OR^{26}$, $[[()]]$ wherein R^{24}, R^{25} and R^{26} which may be the same or different each represents hydrogen, C_{1-3} alkyl or C_{1-3} alkoxy C_{2-3} alkyl $[(())]$;
- 3') C_{1-5} alkyl X^3R^{27} , $[[()]]$ wherein X^3 represents $-O-$, $-S-$, $-SO-$, $-SO_2-$, $-OCO-$, $-NR^{28}CO-$, $-CONR^{29}-$, $-SO_2NR^{30}-$, $-NR^{31}SO_2-$ or $-NR^{32}-$, $[[()]]$ wherein $R^{28}, R^{29}, R^{30}, R^{31}$ and R^{32} each independently represents hydrogen, C_{1-3} alkyl or C_{1-3} alkoxy C_{2-3} alkyl, $[(())]$ and R^{27} represents hydrogen, C_{1-3} alkyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl or a 5-6-membered saturated

heterocyclic group with 1-2 heteroatoms, selected independently from O, S and N, which C₁₋₃alkyl group may bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from oxo, hydroxy, halogeno and C₁₋₄alkoxy and which cyclic group may bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from oxo, hydroxy, halogeno, C₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄hydroxyalkyl and C₁₋₄alkoxy);

4') C₁₋₃alkylX⁴C₁₋₃alkylX⁵R³⁵; [[()]wherein X⁴ and X⁵ which may be the same or different are each -O-, -S-, -SO-, -SO₂-, -NR³⁶CO-, -CONR³⁷-, -SO₂NR³⁸-, -NR³⁹SO₂- or -NR⁴⁰-, [[()]wherein R³⁶, R³⁷, R³⁸, R³⁹ and R⁴⁰ each independently represents hydrogen, C₁₋₃alkyl or C₁₋₃alkoxyC₂₋₃alkyl, [()] and R³⁵ represents hydrogen or C₁₋₃alkyl[()];

5') R⁴¹; [[()]wherein R⁴¹ is a 5-6-membered saturated heterocyclic group, [()]linked via carbon or nitrogen, [()] with 1-2 heteroatoms, selected independently from O, S and N, which heterocyclic group may bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from oxo, hydroxy, halogeno, C₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄hydroxyalkyl, C₁₋₄alkoxy, C₁₋₄alkoxyC₁₋₄alkyl and C₁₋₄alkylsulphonylC₁₋₄alkyl[()];

6') C₁₋₅alkylR⁴¹; [[()]wherein R⁴¹ is as defined hereinbefore[()];

7') C₂₋₅alkenylR⁴¹; [[()]wherein R⁴¹ is as defined hereinbefore[()];

8') C₂₋₅alkynylR⁴¹; [[()]wherein R⁴¹ is as defined hereinbefore[()];

9') R⁴²; [[()]wherein R⁴² represents a phenyl group or a 5-6-membered aromatic heterocyclic group, [()]linked via carbon or nitrogen, [()] with 1-3 heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, which phenyl or aromatic heterocyclic group may carry up to 5 substituents on an available carbon atom selected from hydroxy, halogeno, amino, C₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄alkoxy, C₁₋₄hydroxyalkyl, C₁₋₄aminoalkyl, C₁₋₄alkylamino, C₁₋₄hydroxyalkoxy, carboxy, trifluoromethyl, cyano, -CONR⁴³R⁴⁴ and -NR⁴⁵COR⁴⁶, [[()]wherein R⁴³, R⁴⁴, R⁴⁵ and R⁴⁶, which may be the same or different, each represents hydrogen, C₁₋₄alkyl or C₁₋₃alkoxyC₂₋₃alkyl[()];

10') C₁₋₅alkylR⁴²; [[()]wherein R⁴² is as defined hereinbefore[()];

11') C₂₋₅alkenylR⁴²; [[()]wherein R⁴² is as defined hereinbefore[()];

12') C₂₋₅alkynylR⁴²; [[()]wherein R⁴² is as defined hereinbefore[()];

13') C₁₋₅alkylX⁶R⁴²; [[()]wherein X⁶ represents -O-, -S-, -SO-, -SO₂-, -NR⁴⁷CO-, -CONR⁴⁸-, -SO₂NR⁴⁹-, -NR⁵⁰SO₂- or -NR⁵¹-, [[()]wherein R⁴⁷, R⁴⁸, R⁴⁹, R⁵⁰ and R⁵¹ each independently represents hydrogen, C₁₋₃alkyl or C₁₋₃alkoxyC₂₋₃alkyl, [()] and R⁴² is as defined hereinbefore[()];

14') $C_{2-5}alkenylX^7R^{42}$; [[(]]wherein X^7 represents -O-, -S-, -SO-, -SO₂-, -NR⁵²CO-, -CONR⁵³-, -SO₂NR⁵⁴-, -NR⁵⁵SO₂- or -NR⁵⁶-, [[(]]wherein R^{52} , R^{53} , R^{54} , R^{55} and R^{56} each independently represents hydrogen, C₁₋₃alkyl or C₁₋₃alkoxyC₂₋₃alkyl, [[(]] and R^{42} is as defined hereinbefore[[(]]];

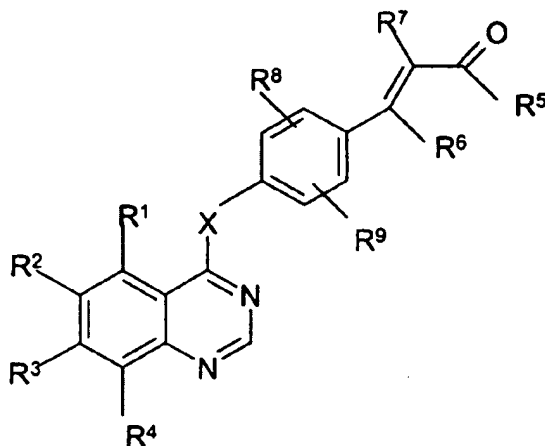
15') $C_{2-5}alkynylX^8R^{42}$; [[(]]wherein X^8 represents -O-, -S-, -SO-, -SO₂-, -NR⁵⁷CO-, -CONR⁵⁸-, -SO₂NR⁵⁹-, -NR⁶⁰SO₂- or -NR⁶¹-, [[(]]wherein R^{57} , R^{58} , R^{59} , R^{60} and R^{61} each independently represents hydrogen, C₁₋₃alkyl or C₁₋₃alkoxyC₂₋₃alkyl, [[(]] and R^{42} is as defined hereinbefore[[(]]];

16') $C_{1-3}alkylX^9C_{1-3}alkylR^{42}$; [[(]]wherein X^9 represents -O-, -S-, -SO-, -SO₂-, -NR⁶²CO-, -CONR⁶³-, -SO₂NR⁶⁴-, -NR⁶⁵SO₂- or -NR⁶⁶-, [[(]]wherein R^{62} , R^{63} , R^{64} , R^{65} and R^{66} each independently represents hydrogen, C₁₋₃alkyl or C₁₋₃alkoxyC₂₋₃alkyl, [[(]] and R^{42} is as defined hereinbefore[[(]]]; and

17') $C_{1-3}alkylX^9C_{1-3}alkylR^{41}$; [[(]]wherein X^9 and R^{41} are as defined hereinbefore[[(]]]; and R^6 and R^7 are hydrogen or C₁₋₄ alkyl.

8. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 7 wherein R^6 and R^7 are hydrogen.

9. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 7 of formula (IB)



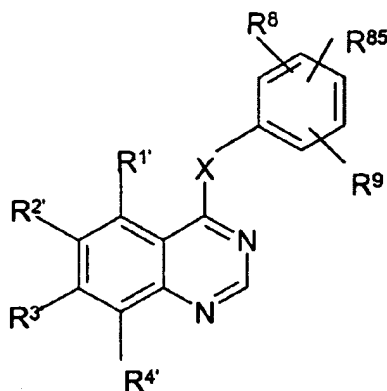
(IB)

where X, R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁶, R⁷, R⁸ and R⁹ are as defined in claim 7.

10. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 6, wherein R^5 is selected from a group OR^{11} where R^{11} is hydrogen or C_{1-4} alkyl; or a group $NR^{12}R^{13}$ where one of R^{12} or R^{13} is hydrogen and the other is optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkyl, optionally substituted aryl or optionally substituted heterocyclyl, or R^{12} and R^{13} together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached ~~from~~ form a heterocyclic ring.

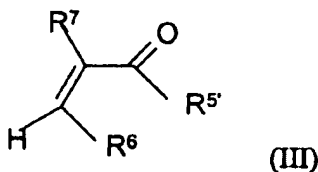
11. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 10, which is a phosphate ester of a compound of formula (I).

12. (previously presented) A method for preparing a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1 which method comprises reacting a compound of formula (II)



(II)

where X , R^8 and R^9 are as defined in claim 1, $R^{1'}$, $R^{2'}$, $R^{3'}$, $R^{4'}$ are groups R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 as defined in claim 1 respectively; and R^{85} is a leaving group, with a compound of formula (III)



(III)

where R^6 and R^7 are as defined in claim 1 and $R^{5'}$ is a group as defined in claim 1.

13. (cancelled)
14. (previously presented) A method for treating colorectal or breast cancer in a warm blooded animal, in need of such treatment, which comprises administering to said animal an effective amount of a compound of formula (I), or a salt, ester, or amide thereof.
15. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1 or a salt, ester, or amide thereof, in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
16. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 10 or a salt, ester or amide thereof; where ~~X is as defined in claim 1 and R¹, R², R³, R⁴ are as defined in claim 6; and~~
R⁵ is a group OR¹¹, NR¹²R¹³ or SR¹¹ where R¹¹ is hydrogen or C₁₋₄alkyl, and where one of R¹² and R¹³ is hydrogen and the other is C₁₋₆alkyl optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from hydroxy, trifluoromethyl, C₁₋₃alkoxy, cyano, amino, mono- or di-C₁₋₄alkylamino, C₁₋₄alkylthio, C₃₋₆cycloalkyl or heterocyclyl optionally substituted with C₁₋₄alkyl; or one of R¹² and R¹³ is hydrogen and the other is a heterocyclic group as well as dioxides thereof, C₃₋₆cycloalkyl or a phenyl group any of which may be substituted with one or more groups selected from halo, nitro, C₁₋₄alkyl or C₁₋₄alkoxy, and R¹² and R¹³ may additionally form together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, morpholine or piperidine,
R⁶ and R⁷ are independently selected from hydrogen or C₁₋₄alkyl;
R⁸ and R⁹ are independently selected from hydrogen, halo, C₁₋₄ alkoxy, trifluoromethyl, cyano or phenyl.
17. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 16 wherein X is NH or O.
18. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 16 wherein R¹ is hydrogen, R² is halo, cyano, nitro, trifluoromethyl, C₁₋₃alkyl, -NR¹⁴R¹⁵, ~~[[()]]~~wherein R¹⁴ and R¹⁵, which may be the same or different, each represents hydrogen or C₁₋₃alkyl~~[[()]]~~, or a group -X¹R¹⁶ where X¹ is oxygen and R¹⁶ is a group (1) as defined in claim 6,

R^3 is a group $-X^1R^{16}$ where X^1 is oxygen and R^{16} is a group selected from group (1), (3), (6) and (10) as defined in claim 6
and R^4 is hydrogen, halo, C_{1-4} alkyl, or C_{1-4} alkoxy.

19. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 16 wherein R^2 and R^3 are independently methoxy or 3,3,3-trifluoroethoxy.

20. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 16 wherein R^3 is 3-morpholinopropoxy.

21. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 16 wherein R^8 and R^9 are both hydrogen.

22. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 16 wherein R^6 and R^7 are both hydrogen.